

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
April 10, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on April 10, 2012, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Billy Dunn, Employee

The meeting was called to order by the President, Karlton Methvin. The minutes of the March, 2012 meeting were read and discussed. A motion was made by Doris Rogé, and seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the March, 2012 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The February and March, 2012 financial statements were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the February and March, 2012 financial statements. This motion passed unanimously.

Robert Vercher addressed the board and advised that his crew had been bushhogging the Cane River side of the levee. He indicated that there was an area on J. H. Williams' old place

that needed repairs and it would probably need a load of rock and dirt. When they complete the repairs they intend to seed this area with grass. At the present time his crew had mowed as far as Allen Solomon Lane.

Mr. Vercher indicated that he did not know if they would be able to finish mowing before April 30, 2012, the date the periodic inspection was scheduled by the Corps of Engineers. However, it is expected that the Corps inspection will take several days, and his crew will keep working during the inspection.

Mr. Vercher further advised that there is a 5' culvert in a ditch on Mr. Lavespere's property. The culvert is too small for the ditch and according to Mr. Charles Dalme, it is causing the water to back up on his property. Mr. Vercher informed the Jury that he and his crew tried to get to the property to inspect it, but the water was too high. There was a water current running through the culvert pretty fast, but apparently the culvert is simply too small to carry the load. Brad Sticker advised that he would look at it whenever the water goes down.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. He advised that he had a copy of DOTD's inspection of the levees on CD. A CD was given to Corkern and can be provided to the Corps of Engineers as part of our annual inspection requirements.

Mr. Sticker further informed the Board that the Corps of Engineers was going to be concerned about the area in Campiti where the levee is missing. In the past the Corps has advised that because of the high bank, a levee was not needed in this area. They have now changed their opinion in this regard. Sticker recommended that we get with the Corps of Engineers to determine exactly what the project flood elevation is for that area and what has to be done to meet the Corps' requirements.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he spoke with the Corps regarding the irrigation pipelines that are crossing the levee. No decision has been made. One line is 8/10ths of an inch shy of meeting the Corps' requirements.

DOTD is preparing final plans for the bridge over Bayou Saline on U.S. Highway 71. However, their plans do not meet the Corps' current requirements. Brad is trying to work with the DOTD and Corps of Engineers to resolve this.

Mr. Sticker further advised that he had received an estimate on repairs on the lower Cane River structures. They were not able to find the gates that fell off. He indicated that he would finalize the estimates in the next couple of days and advise the Board. His estimate will include replacement of the gates. He is still waiting to hear from Baton Rouge on their contact with Facility Planning relative to additional monies for these repairs.

Karlton Methvin advised that he had inspected our levees on several occasions during the high water. There was some concern about the spillway at lower Cane River. The spillway is located in the levee that no one claims to own. Nevertheless, Cane River Waterway Commission has constructed a coffer dam around the gates to take pressure off of the gates. They have also retained an engineer to design new gates and will pay for the installation when the design is complete.

Karlton attended a Cane River Waterway Commission meeting where DOTD representatives were present. The DOTD representative stated that in 1949 a contract was awarded to build the levee in question for the Cane River Levee & Drainage District. Based upon this, it is the position of DOTD that it does not own it.

All of the other gates appear to be operating satisfactorily and the levees in those areas were in good condition.

In other business, Ronald Corkern advised that a proposal to roll the milage forward would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Since it requires approval by 2/3rds of the members of the Board, it will be necessary for at least six members to be present at the next Board meeting.

Corkern further advised that the annual workshop hosted by the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana would be held in Baton Rouge on May 3 and 4, 2012. Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact Corkern that week so that he could make reservations.

There being no further business to come before Board, a Motion was made by Janet Jones, seconded by Rayburn Smith, to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 6th day of May, 2012, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.,
Attorney/Assistant Secretary

